

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO QUAYLE ACTION
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/534,034

REMARKS

The Examiner indicates that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters. In particular, the Examiner maintains that claims 7, 8 and 9 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

The undersigned called Examiner Rodriguez to discuss the objection to claims 7, 8 and 9. During the teleconference with the Examiner, the undersigned pointed out to him that claims 7, 8 and 9 are apparatus claims whereas claims 2, 3 and 4 are method claims. Examiner Rodriguez agreed, but indicated that he would like certain language clarified in independent claims 7, 8 and 9 in order to make it clear that these claims are in fact apparatus claims and not method claims. In particular, in each of claims 7, 8 and 9, Examiner Rodriguez requested that “to be” in line 2 of each claim be deleted, and further that the term “scoring” in line 3 of each claim be changed to -- scored -- (see also line 5 of claims 7 and 8). Examiner Rodriguez indicated that, subject to final approval by his supervisor, such amendments should place claims 7, 8 and 9 in form for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants have made the changes suggested by the Examiner. In this regard, support for the term “scored” when referring to the kerfs appears, for example, on page 8, line 21 of the present application.

Moreover, in order to clarify the record, Applicants note that in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed October 22, 2003, on Page 8, lines 9-12, Applicants stated that

[t]he “notch” is the portion in which a fluid adhesive is contained to fix the optical component to the support. On the other hand, the

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“kerfs” formed by scoring the surface of the support perpendicularly to the notch function as pathways through which the fluid adhesive flows into the notch.

However, the correct interpretation and function of the notch and of the kerfs are set forth in the following non-limiting description. In the present invention, an optical component is fixed to the support by first being located on a support having a notch and kerfs in such a manner that the component bridges the notch. Then, adhesive is dripped onto the areas of the support where the periphery of the optical component is located so that the dripped adhesive penetrates into the portions of the kerfs, which are covered with the optical component, in the direction toward the notch by capillary action.

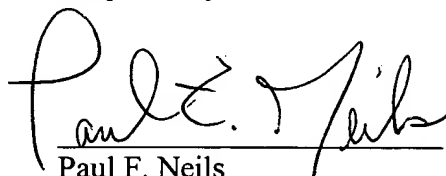
Consequently, these portions of the kerfs which are covered with the optical component are filled with the adhesive, and the component is fixed to the support. In this case, the adhesive remains in the above-mentioned portions of the kerfs, and will not drop into the notch. The notch is merely an open space and functions as an escape route for air contained in the kerfs. The air is forced out of the kerfs when the adhesive penetrates into the kerfs by capillary action (see the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, and the drawings of the subject application).

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Neils
Registration No. 33,102

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

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